30th January 1936]

(*c*) No. The productivity of the undertaking was examined with reference to the combined load, industrial, urban and rural.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I know whether the amount of energy indicated with reference to agricultural pumping included in the 4,870 K.W., is based upon any programme submitted by the licensees within the three years of operation?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"I am not aware of any programme, Sir."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—"Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the answer to sub-clause (*a*) what the actual estimate is of the agricultural load expected out of 4,870 K.W.?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"I shall be glad to give the information to the hon. Member on getting it."

Local demand for electric energy in the Mettur Hydro-Electric area.

* 633 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have ascertained the demand for electric energy in the Mettur Hydro-Electric area;

(*b*) whether local bodies in that area were consulted before they determined their programme of works in that area; and

(*c*) whether any and, if so, which of the local bodies have not agreed to take power?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The Chief Engineer for Electricity prepared an estimate of the demand for power in the area after making a thorough investigation. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to chapter 4 of the report on the Mettur Hydro-Electric Scheme—extracts of which were laid on the table of the House on 22nd March 1935.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), may I know whether the Government do not think that they can sell more power within the first year if advance propaganda has been made in respect of local bodies in the Mettur hydro-electric area?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"I do not quite follow the hon. Member's question."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"What I suggest is that if advance propaganda is made in the Mettur area, the demand for energy will be more than what is estimated in the answer?"

[30th January 1936

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"Everything possible is done, because it is in the interests of the Government to sell energy."

Rescission of the order to disafforest a belt of the Kudiraimoli forest, Tinnevelly district.

Forests

* 634 *Q.*—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to the Kudiraimoli forest reserve in Trichendur taluk in the Tinnevelly district—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that as a result of numerous memorials from the inhabitants of adjoining villages and interpellations in the Legislative Council, the Government passed an order in 1924–25 to disafforest a belt of half a mile all round the reserve for assignment to the neighbouring inhabitants;

(*b*) whether this order has been carried into effect and what action, if any, has been taken on the same;

(*c*) whether the order was passed after a full and elaborate discussion by the expert officers of the Government;

(*d*) whether the order has been subsequently cancelled and if so, when and whether any notice was given to the neighbouring inhabitants before the cancellation; and

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House the order subsequent to 1925 either cancelling or modifying the prior order to disafforest a belt of half a mile?

A.—(*a*) No orders were passed that a belt of half a mile all round the reserve should be disafforested for assignment to the neighbouring inhabitants. An area of 1,952 acres in the reserve was however disreserved in 1924 in order to set back the reserve boundary which lay close to the villages of Kudiraimoli, Semmarikulam, Yeluvaraimukki and Nazareth.

(*b*) *to* (*d*) The lands could not be assigned as they had not been surveyed. The survey was completed in December 1930. In the meantime the local officers represented that the disafforested areas were not taken proper care of and that there had been reckless cutting of trees and consequent loss to Government. It was urged that the area should be reconstituted into a reserve forest. The Government, after careful consideration of the matter and in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Board of Revenue and after giving due notice to the villages concerned, directed that an area of 350 acres should be set apart for the common use of the villagers and that the remaining area should be again reserved. In view, however, of the difficulties of the villagers in